GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:280
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2002
IMPACT OF CINEMA AND TV PROGRAMMES ON WOMEN
P.D. ELANGOVAN

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have constituted a committee to look after the impact of cinema and TV programmes shown in the various private channels in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government are aware that programmes shown in some of the private channels are degrading womanhood and an insult to both our culture and society;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the investigation made so far in this regard;

(e) whether the Government seek to ban such channels in future; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (f) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 280 FOR ANSWE 21/03/2002

(a): No, Sir.

(b): Does not arise.

(c) & (d): As and when specific complaints of programmes denigrating women are received against any channel, the same are examined and the matter is taken up with producers of the programmes/owners of channels and they are directed to adhere to the Programme and Advertisement Code laid down in the Cable TV Networks(Regulation) Act, 1995 and Rules made thereunder.

(e) & (f): The programmes telecast on satellite channels when distributed through cable network, are required to adhere to the Programme and Advertisement Codes laid down in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the Rules framed thereunder, which inter-alia prohibits transmission of any programme which denigrates women through depiction in any manner of the figure of a woman, her form or body or any part thereof in such a way as to have the effect of being indecent, or derogatory to women. In case of violation of the provisions of the Act and Rules, action is required to be taken by the authorised officers viz. the District Magistrates, Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Commissioners of Police and such otherofficers as are notified by the Central/State Governments. The Central Government can also take action on complaints, under Section 20 of the Cable Act, to regulate and prohibit the transmission and retransmission of any programme not in conformity with the Programme Code.